

Amendments to the Specification:

I. Please delete the Abstract and replace it with the Abstract on the separate sheet appended to this Amendment.

II. Prior to paragraph [001], please delete the paragraph added as indicated as item no. 9 in the transmittal letter dated July 22, 2003, and insert the following paragraph:

This is a continuation of Application No. 10/073,330, filed February 13, 2002, which was issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,617,357 B2 on September 9, 2003, and claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of European Patent Application No. 01102852.9, filed February 13, 2001, all of which are incorporated by reference herein.